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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10
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3		6		9		12

(2)

ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: JULY 6, 1974

SUBJECT: US EMBASSY SEOUL CALLS FOR INFORMATION ON PEKING
POLICY ON KOREA

AMBASSADOR HABIB HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S "THOUGHTS
ON ANALYSIS" ON CHINESE POLICY TOWARD KOREA AND THE US MILITARY
PRESENCE THERE. HIS REQUEST IS PROMPTED BY OBSERVATIONS OFFERED
IN PERSONAL CONVERSATION BY THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER
ON JULY 5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMED THAT RECENT CHINESE
COMMENTARY AND PROPAGANDA INDICATE A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF AN
OFFICIAL SHIFT IN PEKING TOWARD A HARDER LINE ON KOREAN POLICY.
HE WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY CALLS IN PEOPLES' DAILY EDITORIALS
FOR AN "IMMEDIATE" END TO THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH

DATE:

ORIG: State Department review completed

UNIT:

EXT:

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KOREA.

CHINA-WATCHERS IN HONG KONG ARE LESS CONCERNED. A ROUTINE REPORT FROM THE CONSULATE-GENERAL ON PEKING'S OBSERVANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN JOINT STATEMENT OF JULY 4, 1972 CONCLUDED THAT THE CHINESE WERE APPARENTLY CONTINUING PAST EFFORTS TO APPEAR IN CLOSE SUPPORT OF THE OFFICIAL NORTH KOREAN LINE ON REUNIFICATION.

MEANWHILE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, NORTH KOREAN PERMANENT OBSERVER KWON MARKED THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOINT STATEMENT WITH A PREPARED STATEMENT STRESSING WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA.

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